



Public Health Act, 1875.

1925  
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# REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1925

ON THE

## SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

*Bradford-on-Avon Rural District.*

PRESENTED TO THE

Bradford-on-Avon Rural District Council

BY

**W. JOHN A. ADYE,**

*Medical Officer of Health of the Bradford-on-Avon Rural  
Sanitary Authority.*

AND

**A. S. BOLWELL,**

*Sanitary Inspector.*



*Public Health Act, 1875.*

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# *Medical Officer's Annual Report.*

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

My Report this year has to be a survey of the five past years.

The Bradford Rural District is an irregular ring, round a circle of two miles diameter comprising the Urban District, and has 16,530 acres.

It includes the villages of Holt, Broughton, Atworth, South Wraxall, Monkton Farleigh, Winsley, Limpley Stoke, Winkfield, Westwood, and Bradford Without.

With the exception of Holt, Broughton and Limpley Stoke, it is purely agricultural.

The population at the Census of 1921 was 5482; at the end of this year the figure estimated by the Registrar General was 5,586, an increase of 104.

\*BIRTHS { Legitimate Males 38 Females 35 Total 73 }  
          { Illegitimate „ 1 „ 2 „ 3 } Total 76  
          giving a rate per 1,000 of 12.88.

DEATHS. Total 60; M. 25, F. 35, giving a rate of 10.64.

Deaths under one year of age equalled 6; M. 3, F. 3; giving a rate per 1000 births of 78.9; for the five years under review there were 26, an average of slightly over five per annum.

No women died in consequence of childbirth or any cause resulting therefrom, and only one case happened during the past five years.

No deaths happened from Measles or Whooping Cough, nor from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).

\*As given by the Registrar General.

As registered in the District: M. 38, F. 34. Total 72.

## DEATHS—1921 to 1925.

*These figures are taken from the Registrar General's Returns.*

Average for the five years .... 59.2.

In Pulmonary Tuberculosis it will be noticed that deaths are more among *men* than women ; the same preponderance occurs in Cancer, whereas in Heart Disease the *female* deaths are more than double those of the men. In Congenital Debility, Marasmus, etc., No. 28 in the table, the male deaths are 11 to 2 females.

## DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE :

		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1921	....	3	3	6
1922	....	2	1	3
1923	....	6	3	9
1924	....	2	—	2
1925	....	3	2	5
		—	—	—
		16	9	25
		—	—	—

Only one of the above was illegitimate.

The death rate for 1925 was 10.64.

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 Enteric ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3 Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6 Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7 Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8 Encephalitis Lithargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9 Meningococcal Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2	6	1	5	1	5	1	1	8	20	2
11 Other Tuberculous Diseases...	2	...	2	3	6	4	4	1	6	13	31	2
12 Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14 Diabetes ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 Cerebral Hemorrhage ...	1	2	2	3	2	3	1	1	1	2	3	5
16 Heart Diseases ...	2	5	...	4	3	6	3	4	2	8	21	13
17 Arterio Sclerosis ...	...	...	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	11	26	37
18 Bronchitis ...	2	1	1	5	2	4	4	5	3	4	3	7
19 Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	1	2	2	2	...	...	...	1	12	18	30
20 Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	5	11
21 Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	1	1
22 Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	6	6
23 Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	3
24 Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	4
25 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	3	7	7
26 Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
27 Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28 Congenital Debility, Malformation and premature Birth	2	...	1	...	4	2	2	...	2	11	13	13
29 Suicide ...	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
30 Other deaths from violence ...	2	...	7	14	5	10	4	1	3	5	1	6
31 Other defined Diseases ...	8	8	2	2	1	1	...	6	7	27	72	72
32 Causes illdefined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	3
	27	26	29	37	27	41	26	24	25	134	163	297
	53	66	68	50	60	50	60	60	60	60	60	60

# Notifiable Diseases in the five years. 1921-1925.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total	Bradford Without	Broughton	Alworth	Holt	Waxall	Monkton Farleigh	Westwood	Winkfield	Winsley	Limpley Stoke
Pneumonia ....	5	1	1		1	8	1			5	1	1			1	
Scarlet Fever ....	1	6	5		5	17	5		4			2	1	1	1	
Diphtheria ....	2	8	2	2		14	2		1	2	3	1	1		4	3
Ophthalmic Neonatorum ....	1					1		1								
Enteric ....		1				1	1	1	1						1	
Erysipelas ....				1	2	3							1			
Encephalitis Lithargica ....				1		1										
	9	16	8	4	8	45	9	2	6	7	4	4	3	1	6	3



# Notifiable Diseases in the five years

1921-1925.

	Under 5 years.	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-25 years	25-30 years	30-35 years	35-40 years	40-45 years	45-50 years	50-55 years	55-60 years	60-65 years	65 and upwards	M.	F.
Pneumonia ....	1	11	4	2	1				1						5	3
Scarlet Fever ...			3	2											7	10
Diphtheria ...	2	5	2	1	3	1									7	7
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	1														1	1
Enteric ...																
Erysipelas ...					1							1		2	1	3
Encephalitis Lithargica																
....	4	16	9	5	5	2			1			1		2	21	24

As Small-Pox is still very prevalent in the northern mid-lands, perhaps the following table may show how very poorly we are protected against it, the figures given are for the whole Union.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total.
Births ...	187	177	149	140	141	794
Vaccinations	21	27	31	29	18	126
Exemptions	161	149	102	110	123	645

Notification is carried out efficiently in the district.

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## TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Cases are treated in four ways (*a*) at home in conjunction with the County Tuberculosis Officer, (*b*) Early cases are sent to Winsley Sanatorium unless the home conditions are exceptionally good, (*c*) Chronic cases are sent to Harnwood when space is available, and (*d*) there is a Clinic at Trowbridge where patients are seen every Wednesday.



TUBERCULOSIS. 1921-1925.

NOTIFICATIONS.

(The figures show the ages : those marked \* are not pulmonary.)

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.		M.	F.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Bradford Without													
Broughton			16				23				1	1	2
Atworth													
Holt		20	22			27 32	18 40		*18 *39		2	6	8
Wraxall							32					1	1
Monkton Farleigh	48 39			20		18 29			28		2	4	6
Westwood						22						1	1
Winkfield	25					22				1	1	1	2
Winsley	51				29	*5½	*13½			4	1	1	5
Limpley Stoke		7 34										2	2
	4	3	2	1	1	7	2	3	1	3	10	17	27
Yearly Totals	7		3		8		5		4				

# TUBERCULOSIS. 1921-1925.

## DEATHS.

*The figures show the ages.*

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.		M.	F.	Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			
Bradford Without													
Broughton													
Atworth													
Holt		20	22			32			16	1	3	4	
Wraxall													
Monkton Farleigh			49 40	20		18				2	2	4	
Westwood													
Winkfield								28		1		1	
Winsley							19			1		1	
Limpley Stoke													
		1	3	1		2	1		1	5	5	10	
Yearly Totals	1		4		2		1		2				

## **Nursing Arrangements.**

### **Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.**

Holt and Broughton Gifford share one Nurse for maternity and general nursing.

Atworth has one resident Nurse.

Monkton Farleigh has to send to Corsham when a Nurse is required, as unfortunately the Nurse who has been doing the work for the past few years has left the district.

South Wraxall is without a Nurse and help has to be fetched from Corsham.

Westwood and Winkfield have the services of one Nurse for Maternity and General Nursing.

Winsley parish has a resident Nurse for Maternity and General Nursing.

Limpley Stoke. Here the Nurse is supplied from the Freshford Nursing Home.

No nursing arrangements are made for Infectious Diseases, *e.g.*, Measles.

All the Nurses mentioned above are maintained by private subscriptions, and the Committees do not receive any financial help from County or District Councils, except when the Nurse undertakes the duty of Health Visitor.

Four qualified Midwives are resident in the district.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, School Clinics, Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease administration, are under the control of the County Council.

A centre for Orthopædic cases has been established at Trowbridge, to which any cases occurring in the district can be sent.

There is no Institutional provision made in the district for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children.

## **Ambulance Facilities.**

(a) The Motor Ambulance from the Isolation Hospital is used for Infectious Diseases.

(b) There is a new and up-to-date Ambulance at Trowbridge which is available for accidents and non-infectious cases.

The Police Ambulance at Bath is generally available.

## **Laboratory Work.**

Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the Clinical Research Society and the Laboratory attached to Bath Hospital, the fees are paid by the Council in necessitous cases.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is seldom used, as all cases are removed at once to the Isolation Hospital at Trowbridge.

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### **The list of Adoptive Acts, Bye-Laws and Local Regulations in force in the district, with the date of adoption, is as follows :**

Section 171 of the Public Health Act, 1875 as incorporated provision of Town Police Clauses Act, 1847, with respect to fires.

Adopted December 19th, 1904.

Certain Sections of Parts III. and IV. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, are in force within the Rural District, and certain sections of Part III. of the same act are in force in the Contributory place of Holt in the District.

Adopted July 28th, 1909.

Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1875. is in force in the Contributory place of Atworth, and the Rural District Council is invested with all the Powers, Rights, Duties, Capacities, Liabilities, and Obligations of an Urban District Council in the Contributory place. Adopted March 28th, 1910.

The above Section, viz : P.H.A., 1875, was adopted for the Villages of Broughton Gifford, South Wraxall and Winsley, on August 26th, 1912.

## **Sanitary Administration.**

With the exception of Bread and one Fried Fish Shop, no food is prepared in the District.

There are eight Bakehouses, six of these having patent ovens, none of them are underground.

One Slaughteryhouse is licensed for the slaughter of pigs.

Formaldehyde is used for the disinfection of houses in all cases of infectious disease, after removal to the Isolation Hospital or death ; bedding is removed to the sterilizer at the Hospital, the same method is pursued in all cases of Tuberculosis.

No action was taken under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order.

Action under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts, and the Milk and Cream Regulations, is taken by the County Council.

The Public Health Officers of the District Council are a Medical Officer of Health, and a Sanitary Inspector: both of them part-time.

Health Visitors, Food Inspectors and Special Nurses are under the control of the County Council.

### **Milk Supply, Dairies and Cowsheds.**

One hundred and thirty-two farms are registered, and three persons as sellers of milk, so that the total on the Register is 135.

The total number of sheds is 285, and the number of cattle equals 2,886.

Five of the farm yards are electrically lighted, eleven by lamps and the remainder are open; forty-two drain to cess-pits and the fluid taken on to the land, while ninety allow this valuable fertilizer to drain away into the ditches.

There is no special ventilation.

Fifty-nine get their water supply from wells, forty-two from springs and thirty-one have theirs from a public supply.

Milk production is the chief industry of the district, and the greatest portion of it is sent to Nestle's factory at Staverton, The Wilts United Dairy Co., at Trowbridge, The Wiltshire Farmers' Association at Chippenham, and The Milk Factory at Melksham.

## **Public Health and Housing Committee.**

### **Housing Acts, 1909-1925.**

**Statement of Work carried out during the Year ending  
31st December, 1925, under the above Acts, in the  
Bradford-on-Avon Rural District.**

*Number of New Houses erected during the year 1925:*

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	9
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:—	
(i) By the Local Authority	7
(ii) By other Bodies or Persons	nil



1. *Unfit Dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... 62

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ... 1

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... 10

2. *Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.* 18

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 14

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

## A.—Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners ... nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close ... nil

## B.—Proceeding under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of



which notice were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	14
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	...				
(a) By Owners...	...	...	...		11
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	nil
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.					
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	1
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	nil

(Signed) A. S. BOLWELL,  
Sanitary Inspector.

Feb. 1st, 1926.

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## Drainage and Sewerage.

Holt is the only village in the Bradford-on-Avon Rural District with a regular system of sewerage. With the exception of a few houses where the levels are too low, or the distance too great to join up to the sewer, all the houses are connected.

The sewage is conveyed to septic tanks on the eastern side of the village, where the prevailing wind, viz: West or South-West, carries any nuisance that might arise therefrom well away from the houses.

Atworth has a large drain running through it but is only used for rain and slop water.

In the rest of the district the larger houses drain into cess-pits, and occasionally into fissures in the rocks beneath them.

No scavenging is done in the district, most of it being dug into the gardens, no arrangement is made for its removal by farmers, and there is no destructor in any of the surrounding Unions.

Iron cages have been erected in all the villages for indestructible rubbish, they are emptied when necessary and the contents put into old quarries.

## Water Supply.

**WESTWOOD.** A public supply was installed in 1911, adits were dug in the neighbourhood of Cuffley spring, and the water pumped to a reservoir from which it is distributed by gravitation to stand-pipes in the upper and lower villages. Unfortunately, there is not a sufficient supply for houses to be served individually.

**BRADFORD WITHOUT.** With the following exceptions the whole of this Parish is supplied by wells and springs.

1. A few houses at Trowle receive their water from the Trowbridge Water Co.

2. The Old Court Hotel and one house at Avoncliff receive water by pipes from Cuffley spring.

3. At Avoncliff, on the Turley side of the river, a cistern has been built round a spring at the side of the road, and gives a constant supply.

**ATWORTH** has a reservoir on the north-west of the village which is fed by a spring. The water is pipe bourne to cisterns below pumps, placed at various points down the main street.

LIMPLEY STOKE is supplied by the Bath High Level Co., in addition it has wells and a public spring.

WINSLEY has its water from the Bath High Level Co., which also supplies one house and a public tap in Turley, the rest of the parish use public troughs, wells and springs.

SOUTH WRAXALL is very badly supplied by 37 wells, varying in depth from 7 to 80 feet. Many of the wells are useless in dry weather. There is plenty of water to the north of the village, but the expense of tapping the spring, conserving and distributing the water has always been too costly.

MONKTON FARLEIGH. The Manor House, and Church Farm, have their water supply pumped up by windmills from springs half-a-mile away. There is a public pump at the top of the street and two taps for general use lower down. The overflow from Church Farm is taken to a cistern at the top of Farleigh Wick for the use of the hamlet:

WINKFIELD. The large houses and some cottages have their own wells, the remainder get their water from the village pump, under which are two cisterns which are kept filled by being connected to springs.

BROUGHTON GIFFORD has a good and plentiful supply of water, the property of Major R. Fuller of Great Chalfield, the water is forced by a ram from Great Chalfield to a reservoir at the western end of the village, the larger houses and farms are supplied individually, and taps are placed near groups of cottages.

HOLT has a good and constant supply of its own, small houses are served by taps for groups, the larger ones have separate supplies.

## HOUSING.

Up to 1900 the Rural Council had agreed to various schemes, and had gone so far as to make provisional agreements for the purchase of land to build the houses on, one scheme was for 92 houses divided among the ten parishes of the Rural District; at the beginning of 1921 the Government of the day stopped all these schemes, and our villages have been dependent on the enterprise of private persons.

During the years 1921 and 1925 63 houses have been built or reconstructed from older buildings.

Below is a table showing where and in what year they were built.

Many more are needed in the whole district, as at present no houses can be condemned as there are no others for the people to go into . . . to prevent over-crowding, which at the present time and under existing conditions it is almost impossible to try to cure . . . they are also wanted for young couples, who at present live with one or other of their parents, and so help to cause some over-crowding.

Simple Bye-laws are needed, as there are none in force.

On referring to the Table of Births for the past five years, one cannot but be struck by the steady fall, till in 1925 there were 25% less than in 1921, one of the main causes that contributes to this serious fall is in the scarcity of, and the excessive cost of, houses. It must also be borne in mind that since the war the ideas about sanitation and personal cleanliness have totally changed, and that what was considered decent in those days will not be tolerated now.

### Houses Built or Buildings Converted 1921—1925.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	Total.
Atworth ...	1	1	1	....	5*	8
Bradford Without	....	....	....	....	....	...
Broughton Gifford	....	....	....	2	....	2
Holt ...	1	....	....	1	6	8
Limpley Stoke ....	4	....	4	1	1	10
Monkton Farleigh	....	....	....	....	....	....
South Wraxall ...	....	....	....	....	....	....
Westwood ...	2	4	1	2	5	14†
Winkfield ...	....	....	1	....	....	1
Winsley ....	7	4	1	....	8	20
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15	9	8	6	25	63

\* Buildings converted into Dwelling Houses.

† Eleven Bungalows.

# Table of Births. 1921—1925.

	1921.		1922.		1923.		1924.		1925.		Total	Average.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Atworth ....	10	4	9	5	6	7	3	6	10	7	67	13.2
Bradford Without	4	2	3	4	2	4	3	3	3	2	30	6
Broughton Gifford	6	7	11	13	7	3	11	9	8	10	85	17
Holt ....	10	7	6	9	11	6	10	9	3	3	74	14.4
Limpley Stoke ....	—	3	3	3	3	3	1	—	—	1	15	3
Monkton Farleigh	1	1	4	3	1	5	2	3	2	1	23	4.3
South Wraxall ....	5	1	—	4	2	4	1	3	1	2	23	4.3
Westwood ....	1	8	5	2	5	—	2	4	4	5	36	7.1
Winkfield ....	5	4	1	2	4	3	2	2	1	1	25	5
Winsley ....	10	11	3	5	3	10	7	6	6	2	63	12.3
	53	47	45	50	44	43	42	45	38	34	441	
	100		95		87		87		72			

Males ... 222. Females ... 219.

Illegitimate Children—Males ... 4. Females ... 2.

Birth rate for 1925 .... 12.88.

## **The Public Elementary Schools.**

Holt has two of these, each of them having excellent sanitary arrangements with automatic flushers, water from the public supply being laid on for washing, drinking and sanitary purposes.

The remaining eight have pail closets.

Atworth has water laid on for washing.

The children are Medically examined by Officers appointed by the County Council.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. J. A. ADYE.



